

To Susan Washington Graham.

A.

Washington City,
Decr. 21st, 1840.

My Dearest:

I received your kind letter from New Bern last week announcing your safe arrival, which gave me much pleasure. I regret to learn that Mrs. Bryan still continues unwell.

I have taken private quarters at the House of Mrs. Preuss on Missouri Avenue, one square south of Gadsby's Hotel, & about equidistant from the Capitol. We have fine large rooms and a very neat parlour, & tolerable accomodations in the eating line, and are quite retired from the bustle of Pennsylvania Avenue, which is the Broadway of the City & equals it in noise. Mr. Mangum & myself are sole tenants as yet and will have the controul in admitting others.

We somewhat expect brother James and Mr. Rayner to join us. The former is now on a visit to Phila. to consult Dr. Jackson as to an affection of his throat. I do not believe there is much the matter with him, but he (you know) has his own notions. I suffered considerably last week from a boil, which gave me much pain. After its discharge I sent for a leecher, & had about half a dozen applied, which took away a good deal of blood & I hope will give me permanent relief. He is a more expert hand in applying them than I was in Lincoln on our visit there.

I went the other day to see the President, found him in the company of two or three gentlemen, exceedingly courteous & affable. He is said to be sending off his wines, etc. to Kinderhook, & I presume, will not entertain largely this winter.

If you should prefer it you might come on at once, & return about February, if you did not desire to remain longer. I could meet you at Petersburg, or even at Waynesboro if you find no friend coming the whole way. Such a trip might be of as much service as your visit to Niagara last year. Do however as your feelings indicate or as the interests of our dear children seem to require. I did not intend to write you today as I have written Mr. Bryan, but I supposed you would desire to hear from me during the holidays.

Kiss my Children & be ever mine.